

Message Text

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SUBJ: TTBT/PNE NEGOTIATIONS: US STATEMENT AT 81ST PLENARY, 3/15/76

ROUND VI - TTBT/PNE DELEGATION MESSAGE NO. 128

1. TEXT OF US STATEMENT MADE BY AMBASSADOR STOESSEL AT 81ST PLENARY MEETING, 15 MARCH 1976, FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT.

MR. MINISTER:

TODAY, I WILL REVIEW BRIEFLYSOME OF THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES WHICH REMAIN BETWEEN US. AS I HAVE SAID BEFORE, THE U.S. IDE BELIEVES THAT OUR NEGOTIATIONS CAN PROCEED MORE EXPEDITIOUSLY BY THE CONSIDERATION OF MORE THAN ONE ISSUE AT A TIME.

AT OUR LAST PLENARY MEETING, BOTH OF OUR SIDES ADDRESSED THE EQUIPMENT PROBLEM -- THE MATTER OF PROCEDURES TO ASSURE THE PARTY CARRYING OUT THE EXPLOSION THAT VERIFICATION EQUIPMENT BROUGHT BY THE VERIFYING SIDE WILL NOT ENABLE THE VERIFYING SIDE TO OBTAIN INFORMATION NOT NECESSARY FOR VERIFICATION. WE BOTH AGREE TO THIS PRINCIPLE. WE ALSO BOTH AGREE THAT THE PROCEDURE SHOULD NOT IMPEDE OR OBSTRUCT THE ACQUISITION OR THE ANALYSIS OF THE DATA.

THE POSITION THAT THE U.S. HAS ADVANCED, WE BELIEVE, MEETS THE NEEDS OF BOTH SIDES. WE HAVE PRESENTED OBJECTIVE ARGUMENTS WHICH SUPPORT THESE VIEWS. THE SOVIETS SIDE HAS NOT PRESENTED A TECHNICAL RATIONALE TO REFUTE

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THESE ARGUMENTS. THE POSITION OF THE U.S. PROVIDES A

FIRM BASIS ON WHICH TO MOVE TO A RAPID SOLUTION, AND WE ASK THE SOVIET SIDE TO HELP US MOVE TO THAT GOAL.

ANOTHER ISSUE UPON WHICH WE HAVE BEEN LONG DIVIDED IS THAT OF THE TAKING OF PHOTOGRAPHS. IT IS THE VIEW OF THE U.S. THAT THE VERIFYING SIDE SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS WHICH ARE RELATED TO THE RIGHTS AND FUNCTION OF DESIGNATED PERSONNEL. IN CONTRAST, THE SOVIET SIDE BELIEVES THAT ONLY THE PARTY CARRYING OUT THE EXPLOSION SHOULD TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS, EVEN THOUGH SUCH PHOTOGRAPHS RELATE DIRECTLY TO THE RIGHTS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE DESIGNATED PERSONNEL.

IN AN EFFORT TO MEET THE SOVIET SIDE HALF-WAY, THE U.S. PROPOSED THAT THE RIGHT TO TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS BY DESIGNATED PERSONNEL BE LIMITED TO SPECIFIC OBJECTS AND ACTIVITIES, WHICH ARE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED WITH THE RIGHTS AND FUNCTIONS OF DESIGNATED PERSONNEL. THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL, BUT NOT COMPLETE, AGREEMENT ON THIS LANGUAGE. THE U.S. STILL REMAINS CONVINCED THAT THE VERIFYING SIDE SHOULD TAKE THESE PHOTOGRAPHS.

HOWEVER, TO MEET FURTHER THE SOVIET SIDE, THE U.S. IS PREPARED TO ADOPT FURTHER RESTRICTIONS ON THE RIGHT TO TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES. THE VERIFYING SIDE SHALL IDENTIFY, TO THE PARTY CARRYING OUT THE EXPLOSION, A LIMITED NUMBER OF DESIGNATED PERSONNEL TO BE PHOTOGRAPHERS. THIS SMALL NUMBER SHALL BE THE ONLY DESIGNATED PERSONNEL WITH THE RIGHT TO TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS.

FURTHERMORE, WE CAN AGREE THAT PHOTOGRAPHS CAN ONLY BE TAKEN IN THE PRESENT OF PERSONNEL OF THE PARTY CARRYING OUT THE EXPLOSION. ADDITIONALLY, WE PROPOSE THAT ALL PHOTOGRAPHS BE TAKEN WITH CAMERAS HAVING BUILT-IN, RAPID DEVELOPING CAPABILITY AND A COPY OF EACH PHOTOGRAPH WILL BE PROVIDED IMMEDIATELY TO THE PARTY CARRYING OUT THE EXPLOSION.

THESE PROCEDURES, WE BELIEVE, WOULD ASSURE THE VERIFYING SIDE THAT IT WILL OBTAIN THOSE PHOTOGRAPHS WHICH ARE DIRECTLY RELATED TO RIGHTS AND FUNCTIONS OF DESIGNATED PERSONNEL, AND ASSURE THE PARTY CARRYING OUT THE EXPLOSION THAT ONLY SUCH PHOTOGRAPHS ARE TAKEN.

IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE THE VIEWS OF THE SOVIET SIDE ON THE QUESTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS IN LIGHT OF NOHEXJ

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CONSIDERATIONS.

ANOTHER QUESTION THAT HAS REMAINED ON THE LIST OF UNSOLVED PROBLEMS IS THAT OF THE NUMBER OF DESIGNATED PERSONNEL WHICH ARE APPROPRIATE AT THE SITE OF THE EXPLOSION. IN A STEP TO MEET THE SOVIET SIDE, THE U.S., DURING THE LAST ROUND LAST YEAR, PROPOSED THAT THE NUMBER OF DESIGNATED PERSONNEL BE KEYED TO THE NUMBER OF EXPLOSIONS BEING CONDUCTED. THE U.S. SIDE DISCUSSED

THE BASIS FOR THIS APPROACH.

HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOT HEARD AS YET FROM THE SOVIET SIDE ANY RESPONSE OR ANY IDEAS ON THIS VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION. WE BELIEVE THAT THE QUESTION OF RIGHTS AND FUNCTIONS HAS PROGRESSED TO THE STAGE WHERE THIS SUBJECT, OF THE NUMBER OF DESIGNATED PERSONNEL, CAN PROFITABLY BE DISCUSSED AND SOLVED.

THE THREE ISSUES THAT I HAVE TOUCHED UPON ARE BY NO MEANS A COMPLETE LIST OF THE ISSUES THAT FACE US. IN SINGLING THESE OUT, I AM NOT SUGGESTING THAT THIS IS THE ONLY COURSE TO TAKE.

WE ARE QUITE PREPARED TO DISCUSS AND SOLVE OTHER ISSUES THAT FACE US. OUR PRINCIPAL INTEREST, WHICH WE ASSUME YOU SHARE, IS TO GET ON WITH OUR WORK. IN OUR SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS, I SHALL REVIEW THOSE ISSUES.

END TEXT.

STOESSEL

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